

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 05947 181018Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----097698 181150Z /45  
R 180920Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5147

S E C R E T SEOUL 5947

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MARR, MASS, KS, US  
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES SCM REQUIREMENTS

SUMMARY: FORNMIN INIDATES ROKG NOW SEEKING PRESIDENTIAL  
LETTER IN PLACE OF PUBLIC GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT  
TO CONFIRM SCM COMMUNIQUE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN COURSE JULY 18 LUNCHEON CONVERSATION, FOREIGN MINISTER  
PAK TONG-JIN TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT PRESIDENT PAK HAD  
TOLD HIM JULY 16 THAT SECURITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING CAME  
DOWN TO TWO MOST IMPORTANT REQUIREMENTS FROM ROK POINT OF  
VIEW: (1) A U.S. UNDERTAKING TO COMPLETE A REASONABLE  
PACKAGE OF COMPENSATORY MEASURES PRIOR TO U.S. TROOP  
WITHDRAWAL; AND (2) CLEAR REAFFIRMATION OF U.S. COMMITMENT  
PARTICULARLY ELABORATION OF WHAT U.S. WOULD DO IN THE  
EVENT OF AN ATTACK FROM NORTH KOREA. WITH FULFILLMENT OF  
THESE REQUIREMENTS, ROK COULD SRUVIVE.

2. FORNMIN DID NOT PURSUE FIRST POINT BUT DID EXPAND ON  
SECOND, SAYING THAT PRESIDENT PAK EXPECTED SOME CLEAR  
MANIFESTATION OF HOW WE MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN THE EVENT OF  
ATTACK. FORNMIN THEN WENT ON TO MAKE CLEAR THAT GOVERNMENT-  
TO-GOVERNMENT LEVEL PUBLIC DOCUMENT CONFIRMING COMMUNIQUE  
WHICH MOFA PREVIOUSLY HAD PRESSED FOR NOT NOW NECESSARILY  
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REQUIRED. HOWEVER, PRESIDENT PAK, SAID FOREIGN MINISTER,  
DID WITH TO HAVE SOME FORM OF PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL  
REAFFIRMATION OF OUR SECURITY COMMITMENT - A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT  
CARTER WOULD SUFFICE, HE SAID. IN THIS EVENT A JOINT COMMUNIQUE  
ALONE WOULD DO AS THE PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF AGREEMENT. FORNMIN  
SAID LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER MIGHT BE BROUGHT BY  
SECRETARY BROWN OR IT COULD BE TRANSMITTED SOMETIME

SUBSEQUENT TO THE SECURITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING.

3. IN RESPONSE, AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT WE HAD STRONGLY REAFFIRMED OUR COMMITMENT MANY TIMES, THAT MOREOVER PRESIDENT CARTER HAD ALREADY SENT A PERSONAL LETTER TO PRESIDENT PAK REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT, AND THAT EXTENSION OF SECURITY TREATY NOT POSSIBLE. FOREIGN MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGED THESE POINTS, BUT STILL FELT PERSONAL EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN TWO PRESIDENTS, WHICH NEED NOT BE PUBLIC, WAS FITTING COMPLETION TO CONSULTATIONS ON WITHDRAWAL. AMBASSADOR AGREED TO PASS TO WASHINGTON SUGGESTION FOR PRESIDENTIAL LETTER SUGGESTED BY FORNMIN, WITHOUT MAKING ANY COMMITMENTS. SNEIDER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Subject:** FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES SCM REQUIREMENTS SUMMARY: FORNMIN INIDATES ROKG NOW SEEKING PRESIDENTIAL LETTER IN PLACE OF PUBLIC GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNME NT  
**TAGS:** MARR, MASS, KS, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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